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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

QUESTION OF TOKELAU

Resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 1440th meeting, on 15 September 1994

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Cognizant of the three options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in Principle VI of the annex of resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,

Taking note with appreciation that for the first time Tokelau came together as one people and nation to speak to the United Nations Visiting Mission, in order to address the question of Tokelau's act of self-determination,

Aware of the special problems facing Tokelau by virtue of its isolation, small size, limited resources and lack of infrastructure,

Reiterating the view that such factors as territorial size, geographical location, size of population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the implementation of the Declaration, which fully applies to Tokelau,

Having examined the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Tokelau, 1994, dispatched in July at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and of the General Fono (Council) of Tokelau, 1/

Having heard the statement of the Chairman of the Visiting Mission, 2/

Having heard the statement of the representative of New Zealand, the administering Power, 2/

Noting with satisfaction the continuing exemplary cooperation of the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

1. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Tokelau to self-determination and independence in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

2. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Ulu-o-Tokelau (highest authority of Tokelau), the Elders of Tokelau, the Council of Faipule (joint chairmen of the General Fono), the pulenuku (village mayors) and all other representatives of the people of Tokelau, as well as the administering Power, for the courtesies, cooperation and assistance extended to the Visiting Mission;

3. Takes note of the solemn declaration read by the Ulu-o-Tokelau, on behalf of the people and their leadership, indicating a strong preference for a future status of free association with New Zealand;

4. Notes that the people of Tokelau, through the General Fono, the Council of Faipule and other institutions, expressed their readiness to assume full governmental responsibility and to conduct their own affairs within the framework of a constitution which is currently being drafted;

5. Takes note of the determination of the people of Tokelau to exercise their right to self-determination following the establishment and effective functioning of all branches of government in accordance with their own constitution;

6. Welcomes the assurances of the Government of New Zealand to meet its obligation to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and to abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

7. Approves the report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Tokelau, 1994; 1/

1/ A/AC.109/2009.

2/ See A/AC.109/PV.1440.

8. Decides, subject to any directives which the General Assembly might give in this regard at its forty-ninth session, to continue the full examination of this question at its next session in the light of the findings of the Visiting Mission.